**Abstract**

Reducing and Managing Catheter Related Bloodstream Infection  
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Vascular access devices (VADs) are an essential and common component of modern day healthcare practice. In the UK one in three patients will have at least one cannular inserted during their hospital stay.

Such devices deliver a myriad of treatments ranging from fluid replacement and delivery of medications to laboratory blood sampling. However, these devices are not without their unwanted complications ranging from phlebitis, thrombosis, dislodgement, and blood stream infections, some of which have the potential to be life threatening.

Great emphasis is placed on the practice of inserting these devices in order to reduce their potential risks. It is also important to focus attention on the ongoing correct care and maintenance of the device.

This presentation will cover:

* the national ambitions for antimicrobial resistance and the strategies we know and can apply to make a difference for our patients
* how microorganisms can be introduced into the blood stream
* how we can apply evidence-based strategies to prevent vascular access device related infections using a care bundle approach for insertion and ongoing care
* how to recognise the signs and symptoms of infection at the insertion site, systemically and post removal of the device.

Practitioners need to be confident and proficient in VAD care practices. It is essential that everyone involved in the care of a patient with a VAD receives adequate training to identify complications including infection, understand interventions and be aware of the importance of documented records.

Written policies, training and experience all contribute to an increase in knowledge, best practice, and improved patient outcomes. However, one of the most important actions that a clinician can perform to reduce risk is to remove unnecessary VADs when they are not being used, when treatment is complete and/or when the patient can be switched to oral medications.